

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am a nurse practitioner that has been living and providing care for Oregonians for six years. I have had the honor of helping patients access reproductive and gender affirming care for nearly two decades. By virtue of employment, I have provided or observed care in multiple states and 3 countries. As a nurse turned nurse practitioner, this has given me a unique perspective on the devastating implications that can occur when only patients in certain states are given full bodily autonomy.

We already know states with fewer rights means patients travel out of state to access those rights to lifesaving care.

We already know and are seeing maternal mortality worsen where abortion has been restricted or banned.

We already know trans youth have significantly higher levels of suicidality when they do not have access to gender affirming care.

I am dismayed at the fracturing of health care rights by legislators over the last several years. I think medical professionals should be left to make medical decisions. Furthermore, I do not think criminalizing medical professionals will improve care.

It is notable that those who have given testimony in opposition to this bill appear to be largely not individually affected by it. It will not change how they live their day, or how they access their own health care.

What I do see in available testimony is that folks in support of this bill are either personally and/or professionally affected. When we speak, we are talking about our loved ones, ourselves, and the patients we care for.

I strongly endorse my support for HB4088, and encourage you to do the same.